



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 1
1 CONGRESS STREET, SUITE 1100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023

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Aerovox
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SENT VIA FACSIMILE AND U.S. MAIL

January 11, 2010

Ms. Brona Simon, Executive Director and SHPO
Massachusetts Historical Commission
The Massachusetts State Archive Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

RE: Former Aerovox Building, New Bedford, MA
MHC # RC26819

Dear Ms. Simon,

The purpose of this letter is to notify the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently working with site stakeholders to mitigate the threats posed by the severely deteriorated and contaminated building and grounds of the former Aerovox mill building, located at 740 Belleville Ave, New Bedford, MA. The building is in the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System as Inventory Number NBE.634 and is also known as Manomet Mill No. 3.

Specifically, EPA is working with a former owner of the property, the current owner (the City of New Bedford) and the MassDEP to demolish the building, cap the site and subsequently perform a site cleanup pursuant to the state's 21E program. The demolition planning will begin in January 2010 while the demolition itself is scheduled to begin early next year. Prior to any demolition activity, EPA intends to comply to the extent practicable with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requirements for this property.

You may recall that the Aerovox property was included in the 2008 historic mill building survey conducted by the City of New Bedford which found the Aerovox mill building to be of low value for historic significance, economic development potential and site and structure condition due to its significant PCB contamination and deteriorated condition.

Last week, I discussed this property with Mr. Edward Bell of your office to determine the appropriate path forward to satisfy Section 106 of the NHPA. As a result, EPA will provide relevant documentation pursuant to Section 106 including the current status of the building, a determination as to the historic significance of the building and a proposal, based on an evaluation of all feasible alternatives, for mitigating the hazards posed by this vacant, deteriorated and heavily contaminated building. Our main concern is that if the building were to catch fire - two vacant mills in the same area have caught fire



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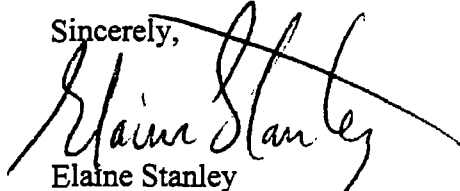
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recently - toxic byproducts such as dioxins and furans could be released into the surrounding area. Since the Site abuts two manufacturing facilities and a dense urban neighborhood, such a mill fire could necessitate evacuation and result in widespread contamination of the area.

We look forward to working with you on this project. Please contact me at 617-918-1332 or Kwabena Kyei-Aboagye, EPA's Historic Preservation Officer at 617-918-1609 if you have any questions regarding this important matter.

Sincerely,



Elaine Stanley
Remedial Project Manager

cc: Kwabena Kyei-Aboagye, EPA Historic Preservation Officer
Cynthia Catri, Esq., EPA Superfund Legal Office
David Dickerson, Remedial Project Manager ✓
Molly Cote, MassDEP